

A Study on Awareness Levels and Adaptation Strategies for Climate Variability among Farmers

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Abstract— Climate change has become a severe threat to the development and communities around the globe are already experiencing the sudden impacts. It is also being assumed that climate change will have significant negative impacts on agricultural productivity .In this respect 120 farmers were interviewed as respondents to explore the climate variability/change awareness and farmers mitigation strategies. This study was conducted in Rangareddy district of Telangana .Three mandals were selected randomly .From each mandal two villages and from each village 20 farmers were selected randomly .Total number of respondents are 120 Findings of the study indicated that farmers' awareness regarding climate variability was very poor they were just having knowledge on behalf of their farming experience. Varied response was seen regarding causes of climate change. In addition, adaptations of mitigation strategies such as natural resource management, water harvesting, crop diversification migration to less weather prone area and usage of weather resistant varieties were almost negligible. Results showed that out of 15 adaptation strategies, micro irrigation ranked first among farm adaptive measures, while crop insurance has ranked as least utilized. Conservation agriculture could be the most viable strategy. Farmers have to utilize their existing resources in judicious ways. It is suggested on the basis of findings that role of extension field staff should be diversified. Farmers need capacity building regarding conservation agriculture. Moreover, it is dire need to popularize climate change and its adaptation through effective media campaign.

Keywords— Conservation agriculture, Crop insurance, capacity building.

I. INTRODUCTION

Climate change constitutes a very serious threat to sustainable agricultural production and food security in many parts of the world. Climate change impacts on agriculture include biological effect on crop yield, the

resulting impact on prices, production, consumption and the impact on per capital calorie consumption and malnutrition. Research findings have shown that agriculture in developing countries is currently being affected by climate change. Unless appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures are taken, climate change will frustrate farmers' efforts to achieve sustainable agricultural production and food security. However, developing such strategies will require information from the farmers since the ability to adapt and cope with climate change depends on their awareness on different aspects . It is against this background that this study seeks to assess the awareness of the farmers on climate change, and to identify the farmers' response and adaptation to the problem.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Rangareddy district of Telangana .Three mandals were selected randomly .From each mandal two villages and from each village 20 farmers were selected randomly .Total number of respondents are 120 .This study is principally based on the primary data obtained from the farmers using a structured schedule .Information regarding awareness levels of farmers towards the adverse effect of climate change , perceived causes/reasons for climate change and mitigation strategies followed by farmers. Interview schedule was used as research tool, which was prepared keeping in mind the all set objectives of the research. The interview schedule was pre-tested before final data collection. The reliability and validity of research instrument was also checked. Further, respondents were personally interviewed for the accurate acquisition of data. Collected data were analyzed through computer software Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for tabulating results and drawing conclusions and recommendations. Average mean and standard deviation were also computed for the better understanding.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table .1: Distribution of respondents according to their Awareness levels (n=120)

S. No	Category	Frequenc y	Percentage
1.	Aware	80	66.7
2.	Not aware	40	33.3

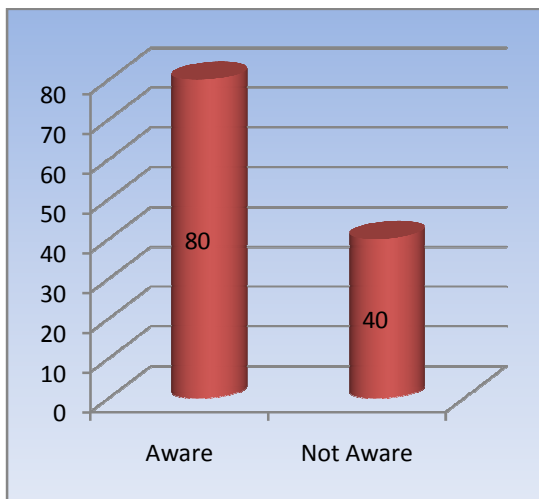


Fig.1: Distribution of respondents according to their Awareness levels

Climate Change Awareness

When asked whether they were aware of climate change and its impacts on both their agricultural production and livelihoods in general, majority of the respondents (66.7%) said yes (fig.1). This is an indication that climate change has indeed moved from being a hypothesis to being a reality. More than half of them (60%) pointed out that media contributed to their awareness of climate change and its impacts. However, 25% of the responding farmers claim that their awareness is because of university extension. It must be noted that the highest education level of respondents is high school and that their understanding of climate change is limited to their daily experiences and

information from radio broadcast, hence, the need that media outreach through radio is enhanced so that more farmers can be reached and informed about climate change, its causes, consequences, mitigation and adaptive measures. When asked what they think should be done to spread climate change awareness, participants pointed out that both workshops and public gatherings can be organized to share information and knowledge between farmers and researchers (through extension services).

Table .2: Awareness of farmers towards causes/factors effecting Climate change (n=120)

S. No	Causes of climate change	Yes	
		F	%
1.	Domestic activities (i.e. Ac & refrigerators, oven and automobile plants)	30	25.0
2.	Deforestation	39	32.5
3.	Emission of green house gasses	2	1.67
4.	Land use changes	0	0
5.	Carbon sequestration in soils	0	0
6.	Industrial activities	5	4.2
	Natural process destined by God	4	3.3
7.	Don't know about the reasons	43	35.8

The awareness of the respondents as to the causes of climate change (Table 2) shows that nearly 35.8% of the respondents don't know the reasons for climate change .about 32.5 % perceived climate change as being caused by deforestation, bush burning, and overgrazing by livestock. This was followed by Domestic activities (i.e. Ac & refrigerators, oven and automobile plants) natural process destined by God, as claimed by 3.3 % of the respondents, while 4.2%) of the respondents claimed that industrial activities are responsible for climate change. Other causes of climate change are Natural process destined by God(3.3%) and emission of green house gases(1.67%).they don't have any knowledge of Land use changes and Carbon sequestration in soils.

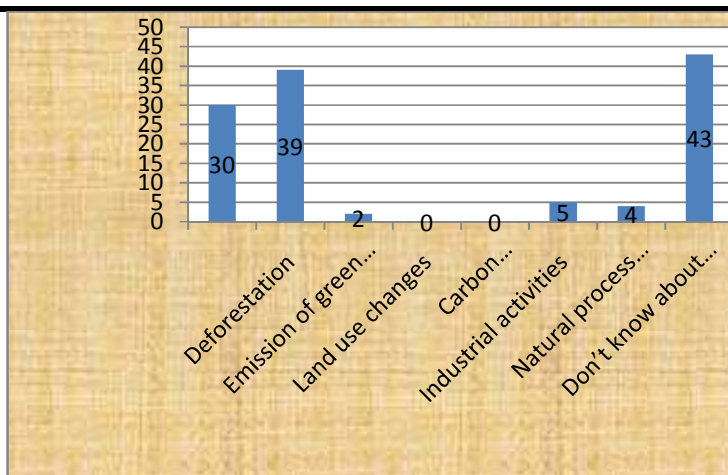


Fig.2: Awareness of farmers towards causes/factors effecting Climate change

Table .3: Awareness of farmers towards effect of Climate change on farming

(n=120)

S. No	Effect of climate change	Response			
		Yes		No	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Reduced yield	80	66.7	40	33.3
2.	Pest and Disease outbreak	50	41.7	70	58.3
3.	Raise of soil temperature &Fast evaporation of soil moisture	20	16.7	100	83.3
4.	Erratic rainfall	75	62.5	45	37.5
5.	Crop failure	60	50.0	60	50.0
6.	Shifting of Seasons	55	45.8	65	54.2
7.	Decline in soil fertility	45	37.5	75	62.5

In order to know the comparative perception of the farmers on 7 selected aspects cumulative frequency and percentages were calculated. According to them majority of the farmers (66.7%) perceived that reduced yield is the effect of climate change followed by erratic rainfall (62.5%) and crop failure (50.0%).very low percentage (16.7 %) of people perceived Raise of soil temperature &Fast evaporation of soil moisture as an effect of climate change .

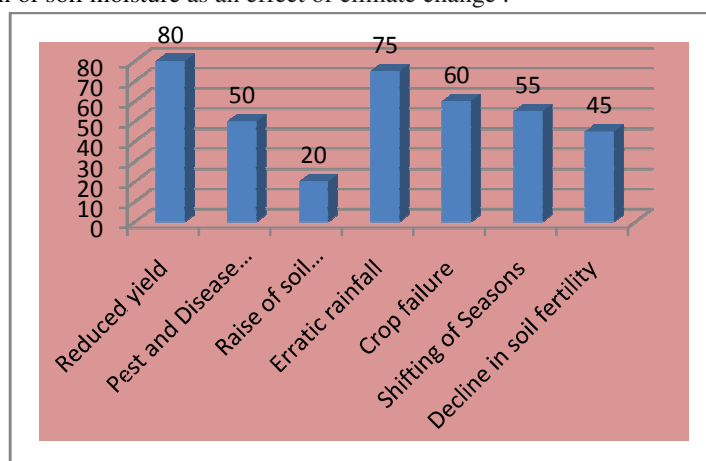


Fig.3: Awareness of farmers towards effect of Climate change on farming

Table. 4: Source of awareness about climate change

(n=120)

S.No	Source	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture Department	10	8.33
2	University scientists	30	25.0
3	Media	72	60.0
4	NGOs	5	41.7
5	Friends and neighbours	3	25.0

Media is the main source of transfer of technical information among farmers. University extension centres placed in second position. If the extension agents are empowered with knowledge/information about climate change, there is high likelihood that such information may reach local farmers.

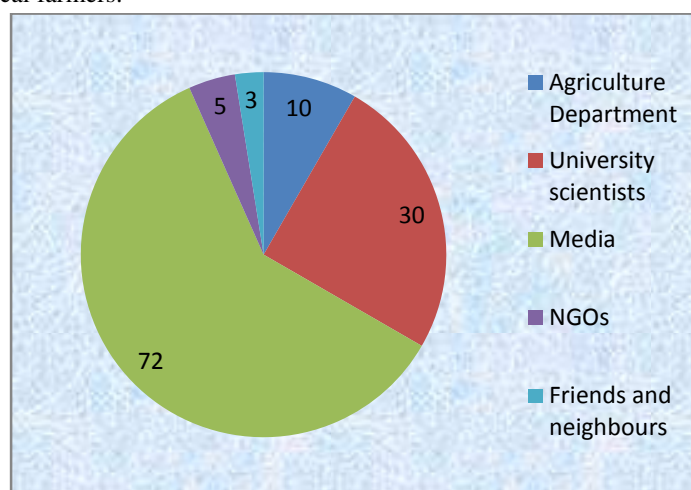


Fig.4: Source of awareness about climate change

Table.5: Adaptation measures adopted by farmers to mitigate climate variability/change

(n=120)

S.No	Technology	Adoption behaviour %	
		Adopted	Not Adopted
1.	Conversion/reduced tillage agriculture	44.2	55.8
2.	Increased intensity of land use	34.0	66.0
3.	Optimum utilization of Agricultural chemicals	45.8	54.2
4.	Better capture and storage of rain water	20.0	80.0
5.	Revising planting dates ,plant densities and crop sequence	31.8	68.2
6.	Use of organics /green manuring in sequence cropping	69.2	30.8
7.	Micro irrigation	22.0	88.0
8.	Integrated natural resource management	32.2	67.8
9.	Use of Resistant varieties	27.0	73.0
10.	Change in cropping patterns	22.8	77.2

11.	Crop diversification	31.7	68.3
12.	Crop rotation	54.4	45.6
13.	Practices to promote natural enemies	21.0	79.0
14.	Crop insurance	11.0	89.0

The result of adaptation measures responded by the respondents against climate change (Table 5) shows that majority (69.2%) of the respondents is using organics /green manuring in sequence cropping. Crop rotation was also practiced by 54.4% of the respondents to pest incidence. About 45.8% of the respondents reported they are following optimum utilization of Agricultural chemicals. Other adaptation measures used by the respondents include use of resistant varieties ,crop rotation, Revising planting dates ,plant densities and crop sequence, reduced tillage, change in cropping pattern ,rain water storage etc.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study proved high level of awareness of farming community in the study area. About 66.7 per cent respondents knew about climate change in the area, while few respondents had awareness about the causes of climate change. The findings suggest that awareness among the respondents was mainly due to media followed by university scientists. So, it is of immediate importance to introduce climate change education among the farmers through extension functionaries of different organizations at different level. The formulated extension strategies need to be incorporated as the guideline in future climate resilient extension strategies for sustainable agricultural development. Extension must help farmers prepare for greater climate variability and uncertainty, create contingency measures to deal with exponentially increasing risk and alleviate the consequences of climate change by providing advice on how to deal with droughts, floods and so forth. Poor resource farmers have to be trained more for they are less enlightened mostly illiterate and neglected from the mainstream of development.

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